

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 IO-12 EB-11 EA-11 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 096624

R 031834 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8915

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 9347

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR IR, XF

SUBJ: IRAN AND THE PERSIAN GULF

DEPT. PASS USINT BAGHDAD

1. IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED APRIL 2 IN PARIS WEEKLY 1' EXPRESS ON EVE OF HIS ARRIVAL IN PARIS, IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF IRANIAN INTERESTS IN PERSIAN GULF. HOVEYDA DESCRIBED GULF AS IRAN' S JUGULAR VEIN AND AREA WHICH IRAN CONSIDERED " MARE NOSTRUM". GULF, HE SAID, SHOULD BELONG TO ALL RIPARIAN STATES INCLUDING IRAQ WITH WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED IRAN DID NOT HAVE GOOD RELATIONS. AS FAR AS IRAN CONCERNED, OIL ROUTE THROUGH GULF MUST REMAIN FREE. FOR THAT REASON IRAN MUST HAVE " ADEQUATE FORCES" SO THAT IT COULD ACT IN ALL CONCEIVABLE CIRCUMSTANCES TO KEEP IRANIAN COAST OF GULF OPEN TO NAVIGATION. HOVEYDA ASKED RHETORICALLY IF ACCESS WERE BLOCKED WHAT WOULD FRANCE, JAPAN OR THE US DO? RUSSIANS, LIKE EUROPEANS AND US, AGREE ON NEED FOR STABILITY IN GULF. EVEN CHINA, AS CHOU ENLAI HAD TOLD GOI IN OCTOBER 72, WANTED STABILITY.

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2. EXPRESS POINTEDLY ASKED ABOUT RECENT IRANIAN ARMS PURCHASES AND WHETHER CERTAIN " LITTLE PROBLEMS" IN REGION JUSTIFY PURCHASE OF 500 TANKS AND SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT. HOVEYDA REPLIED THAT FUNDAMENTALLY A COUNTRY HAD TO COUNT ON ITS OWN RESOURCES. WHILE MILITARY PACTS ALWAYS INTERESTING, THEY ONLY FUNCTION WHEN ONE' S FRIENDS HAVE A COMMON INTEREST, AS IRAN HAD RECENTLY SEEN. IRAN' S " ALL RISK INSURANCE" WAS TO HAVE A DEFENSIVE MILITARY FORCE WHICH PERMITTED IT TO FACE UP TO ALL POSSIBLE SITUATIONS. IRAN HE ADDED HAD TO REMAIN STRONG IN ORDER TO REMAIN WHAT IT IS. IT HAD NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS, AND ITS DEFENSIVE MILITARY FORCES WERE DESIGNED ONLY TO STOP ADVENTURES.

3. HOVEYDA REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY CRITICISM OF USSR FOR ITS MILITARY SUPPLY TO IRAQ AND NOTED THAT IRAN ALSO PURCHASED ARMS FROM SOVIET UNION. UNDERLINING DIFFERENCES AMONG DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN IRAQ, HOVEYDA DISMISSED IRAQI GOVERNMENT AS ONE WHICH WAS TRYING TO WEAR SHOES WHICH WERE TOO BIG FOR IT.

4. TEXT BEING POUCHED TEHRAN AND NEA/ IRN.
DECLASSIFY ON RECEIPT.
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS09347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730430/aaaahjgy.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971117
Subject: IRAN AND THE PERSIAN GULF DEPT. PASS USINT BAGHDAD
TAGS: PFOR, IR, XF
To: JIDDA
KUWAIT
MANAMA
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEHRAN
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005